

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02179 231746Z
ACTION MCE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
/026 W

-----106175 240633Z /17

R 231615Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5178

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2179

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PO
SUBJECT: MUNITIONS CONTROL END-USE CHECK

REF: (A) STATE 068912 (B) STATE 071054

1. MAAG REPRESENTATIVE CALLED ON DIRECTOR, FABRICA MILITAR DE BRACO DE PRATA (FMBP), LISBON, ON 21 MARCH. DIRECTOR UNAWARE OF .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN REPLACEMENT PARTS TRANSACTION FOR 600 M2 BARRELS AND 300 EACH VARIOUS PARTS. FURTHER, DIRECTOR DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SOGHANALIAN OR UNITED ORDNANCE PROCUREMENT, SA.

2. ACCORDING TO FMBP DIRECTOR, THE EARLIER TRANSACTION FOR CONVERSION OF 170 BARRELS WAS CONDUCTED BY THE FMBP SHOP FOREMAN, SR. JOSE ALBERTO MARQUES RODRIGUES, IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT THE 170 BARRELS WERE DESTINED FOR THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE. RODRIGUES LATER LEARNED THAT THE BARRELS WERE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO A PORTUGUESE FIRM, COMARSA. THE DIRECTOR, FMBP, APOLOGIZED FOR THE LAPSE IN CONTROL AND STATED THAT THE BARRELS COULD NOT BE EXPORTED FROM PORTUGAL WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE PORTUEUSE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF.

3. FMBP DIRECTOR STATED THAT ANOTHER PORUTUGUESE FIRM, AVITEXTRIL, HAS MADE INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE OVERHAUL
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OF 300 MACHINE GUNS, .50 CALIBER, BUT THAT NO ACTION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN.

4. BECAUSE OF THE MURKY ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THESE TRANSACTIONS AND APPARENT NON-INVOLVEMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EXPORT LICENSE NOT BE GRANTED.

BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPARE PARTS, ARMS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, END USE CHECKS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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